

21. I am confident I can describe the physician's responsibility regarding disease clusters.

Posttest

If you wish to receive continuing education credit for this program, you must complete this posttest. Each question below contains five suggested answers, of which one or more is correct. **Circle all correct answers on the answer sheet.**

22. Disease clusters are best characterized by

- A. absence of exposure hypotheses.
- B. an unusual aggregation, real or perceived, of health events that are grouped together in time and space and that are reported to a public health unit.
- C. community group.
- D. proximity to waste sites.
- E. awkward communications.

23. A component of a cluster investigation includes

- A. creating a testable exposure hypothesis.
- B. safeguarding public health funds.
- C. performing an effective risk assessment.
- D. ensuring that all stakeholders reach a compromise outcome.
- E. closing the case.

24. Which of the following disease-exposure relationships was first characterized by cluster reports?

- A. Angiosarcoma of the liver from vinyl chloride.
- B. Adenocarcinoma of the vagina and maternal consumption of diethylstilbestrol.
- C. Phocomelia and maternal consumption of thalidomide.
- D. Neurotoxicity from chlordecone (kepone).
- E. All of the above.

25. Which of the following conditions is most likely to describe a disease cluster with a clearly identifiable environmental cause?

- A. Excess of a common disease in a large population.
- B. Excess of a common disease in a small population.
- C. Excess of a rare disease in a large population.
- D. Excess of a rare disease in a small population.
- E. Excess of several different common diseases in a large population.

26. The case definition can be

- A. narrow.
- B. expanded.

- C. based on that which is most unusual about the disease cluster under investigation.
- D. a choice that depends on the information at hand.
- E. all of the above.

27. The federal agency that conducts evaluations of human health outcomes from toxic waste is the

- A. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- B. Office of the Surgeon General.
- C. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.
- D. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.
- E. Bureau of Land Management.

28. The physician's overall responsibility includes

- A. suspecting a cluster of disease based upon clinical observation.
- B. completing an exposure history.
- C. confirmation of case(s) through accurate clinical and laboratory diagnosis.
- D. acting as a sentinel in reporting cases to the local public health unit.
- E. all of the above.

29. The public health department initiates

- A. active surveillance.
- B. exposure assessments.
- C. development of local registries.
- D. all of the above.
- E. none of the above.

Note to Nurses

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